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P800147-2275 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 7, 1980

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Dear Mr. Brodhead:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of October 22 in which you expressed your concerns about the trial of Korean opposition politician Kim Dae Jung and the state of political development in Korea.

We very much share your concern about the fate of Mr. Kim, and have repeatedly and carefully made our views known to the senior levels of the Korean leadership. We are confident that the leadership understands our views and is aware of the potential damage to our relationship that could result from carrying out the sentence of Mr. Kim.

As you undoubtedly know, Mr. Kim's conviction and sentence were upheld this week by a military court of appeal. The case will now go to the Supreme Court for further judicial review. Under Korean law the President must confirm a decision to carry out the death sentence. We do not anticipate that the review of the case will be completed before December.

Please be assured that we will use every appropriate means at our disposal to impress upon the Korean leadership the importance we attach to the fair treatment of Mr. Kim and other defendants and to the development of more liberal political institutions.

Thank you very much for making your views available to us.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
William M. Brodhead,
House of Representatives.

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